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MAY 24 2004

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**OFFICIAL**

Application Serial No. ....09/607,786  
Confirmation No. ....1171  
Filing Date ..... Jun 30, 2000  
Inventorship ..... Cai et al.  
Applicant ..... Microsoft Corporation  
Group Art Unit ..... 2654  
Examiner ..... SPOONER, LAMONT M  
Attorney's Docket No. .... MS1-441US  
Title: A System and Method for Joint Optimization of Language Model  
Performance and Size

To: Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

From: Bradley K. DeSandro (Tel. 509-324-9256 (Ext. 228); Fax 509-323-8979)  
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**AMENDMENT A UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Sir:

In response to the Office action of March 25, 2004 (the "Office Action"), the Applicants submit this Amendment A and request amending of the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 6 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 14 of this paper.